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RT

TRAIN FOR A CAREER IN

# Respiratory Therapy

ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL  
SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM





➤ The Respiratory Therapy program is designed to help you acquire the knowledge and training to evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders, from infants whose lungs are not fully developed to those whose lungs are diseased.

Through a combination of classroom, laboratory, and clinical studies, you will develop a range of skills relevant to the roles and responsibilities of a Respiratory Therapist, including:

- Interviewing patients, performing limited physical examinations, and conducting diagnostic tests
- Executing effective plans and protocols to assist patients so they can breathe comfortably
- Understanding anatomy, physiology and other sciences
- And many other important responsibilities

<b>LOCATION</b>	Orange County and Ontario Campuses
<b>DURATION</b>	Approximately <b>20 months</b>
<b>ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS</b>	<p><b>Each program has entrance requirements, including an entrance exam. Some of the admissions requirements include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 18 or have a parent or guardian's signature</li> <li>• Must have a high school diploma or the equivalent</li> <li>• All applicants must take and pass entrance exams before admission</li> </ul> <p>Be sure to consult with an Admissions Advisor to get all the information on admission into the Respiratory Therapy program.</p>
<b>CAREER OPTIONS</b>	<p><b>Here are some of the industry organizations and medical offices that have offered clinical experience to ACC students:</b> Anaheim General Subacute, Chino Medical Center, Covina Rehabilitation Center &amp; Subacute, Garden Grove Medical Center, Kindred Hospital Santa Ana, Little Company of Mary Health System, Pacific Alliance Medical Center, St. Vincent Hospital, Tustin Hospital &amp; Medical Center, and Whittier Hospital</p>

## Program Outline

General Education Courses:			
Course #	Course Title	Clock Hours	Quarter Credits
ANAT105	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	60	6.0
ENGL110	Written Communications I*	40	4.0
MATH110	College Mathematics I	40	4.0
PSYC110	Introduction to Psychology*	40	4.0
Subtotal – General Education Courses		180	18.0
Core Respiratory Therapy and Other Courses:			
CAREER100	Career Advantage	20	1.0
RCP100	Introduction to Respiratory Science	30	3.0
RCP100-L	Introduction to Respiratory Science Lab	20	1.0
RCP200	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	40	4.0
RCP250	Respiratory Procedures I	30	3.0
RCP250-L	Respiratory Procedures I Lab	20	1.0
RCP300	Respiratory Pharmacology	30	3.0
RCP370	Adult Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	40	4.0
RCP330	Respiratory Procedures II	40	4.0
RCP330-L	Respiratory Procedures II Lab	20	1.0
RCP550	Introduction to Clinical Practicum	40	4.0
RCP450	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation	30	3.0
RCP450-L	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Lab	20	1.0
RCP500	Mechanical Ventilation I	60	6.0
RCP500-L	Mechanical Ventilation I Lab	20	1.0
RCP600	Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	40	4.0
RCP600-L	Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology Lab	20	1.0
RCP700	Advanced Concepts	60	6.0
RTCP210	Clinical Practicum I	240	8.0
RTCP212	Clinical Practicum II	240	8.0
RTCP214	Clinical Practicum III	240	8.0
RCP800	Board Review	60	6.0
Subtotal – Core Respiratory Therapy and Other Courses		1400	85.0
Grand Total for All Required Courses		1580	103.0

\*Courses delivered online only.



# Course Descriptions

The Respiratory Therapy program is divided into eight, 10-week quarters consisting of general education, anatomy and physiology, core respiratory therapy, and clinical practicum courses. Clinical experience in hospital or clinical settings is required for successful completion of the program. These clinical rotations begin in quarter 6 and comprise a total of 720 hours. Each quarter is comprised of subjects or studies that build upon one another.

Upon graduation from the Associate of Occupational Science degree program in Respiratory Therapy, students will be prepared to function as Respiratory Therapists and may be eligible to sit for exams offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) in order to obtain their credentials as Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

Effective January 1, 2015, in order to become licensed as a Respiratory Therapist in the state of California, licensure candidates must hold a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential which is obtained by passing the TMC and the CSE exams which are both administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC).

## GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES:

### ANAT105

#### Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

The purpose of this course is to understand the organization and general plan of the body and the importance of how the human body functions. This includes an introduction to the human body, chemical aspects of the life, cells, tissues, membranes, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems.

**Prerequisite:** None

### ENGL110

#### Written Communications I\*

This course provides instruction in the process of effective written communication for a variety of formats. It initially focuses on four basic areas of effective writing: unity, specifics, coherence, and grammar. The course will utilize reading, discussion, and personal insight to increase students' capacity to write simple paragraphs, formal essays, reports, and research projects. Students will be equipped with techniques that facilitate creative, academic, and professional written communication. Additionally, students will be given library activities to enhance research skills.

**Prerequisite:** None

### MATH110

#### College Mathematics I

This course will cover mathematical logic, Boolean algebra, set theory, number abstractions, operations and their properties, monomials, polynomials, equations, and inequalities.

**Prerequisite:** None

### PSYC110

#### Introduction to Psychology\*

This course provides basic psychological concepts such as, the nervous system, memory, intelligence, and development along with Freudian, humanistic, social, cognitive, and trait theories.

**Prerequisite:** None

## CORE RESPIRATORY THERAPY AND OTHER COURSES:

### CAREER100

#### Career Advantage

Career Advantage is a course designed to prepare students to develop career planning and job search skills. Thorough, relevant job search preparation is required to compete successfully for jobs in today's market. To prepare the student, the course will address six areas: resumes, job search process, networking techniques in a job search, interview planning and preparation, communication, and workplace skills.

**Prerequisite:** None

### RCP100

#### Introduction to Respiratory Science

This course introduces students to applications of basic physics concepts relative to the field of respiratory therapy including mechanics of motion, work and energy, states of matter, gas laws, gas behavior, and fluid dynamics. Additionally, this course will introduce students to concepts related to the properties and generation of humidity and aerosols, manufacture, storage, handling, transport of medical gases and the design of devices to regulate and deliver medical gases.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Corequisite:** RCP100-L

### RCP100-L

#### Introduction to Respiratory Science Lab

This laboratory course introduces students to experimentation with and application of basic physics concepts relative to the field of respiratory therapy including mechanics of motion, work and energy, states of matter, gas laws, gas behavior, and fluid dynamics. Additionally, this course will introduce students to concepts related to the properties and generation of humidity and aerosols, safe and proper selection, assembly, troubleshooting, handling and transport of medical gases as well as devices to regulate and deliver medical gases.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Corequisite:** RCP100

### RCP200

#### Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology

This course is a focused study of cardiopulmonary anatomy & physiology. Discussions will center on a systematic understanding of the position, function and interplay of structures within the respiratory, cardiovascular and renal systems as well as control of breathing, gas exchange, acid-base physiology, cardiac electrophysiology, and fluid balance. Included in this course will be interpretation of clinical laboratory findings, proper techniques for conducting patient assessment, and documentation of the resultant clinical findings.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105 & MATH110

### RCP250

#### Respiratory Procedures I

This course introduces students to basic respiratory care treatments and support modalities; set-up, use and troubleshooting of equipment; concepts related to the therapeutic administration of oxygen and aerosol therapy in respiratory care; and concepts and techniques surrounding sampling and proper handling and transport of arterial blood gases. Focus is placed on adherence to techniques ensuring appropriate infection control practices and patient safety. Students will learn to conduct physical and clinical exams and patient assessments to determine and develop appropriate and effective treatment plans.

**Prerequisites:** RCP100, MATH110

**Corequisite:** RCP250-L

### RCP250-L

#### Respiratory Procedures I Lab

This laboratory course introduces students to the application of non-invasive respiratory care treatments and support modalities, set-up, use, and troubleshooting required equipment.

**Prerequisites:** RCP100, RCP100-L & MATH110

**Corequisite:** RCP250

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## RCP300

### Respiratory Pharmacology

This course introduces students to the study of pharmacological principles related to the treatment of patients with cardiopulmonary disease. The course includes a study of the anatomy and basic function of the central and peripheral nervous systems, principles of drug action, the basic methods of drug administration, standard drug calculations, and the effects of drugs on particular body systems. Inhaled broncho-active aerosols and other agents commonly employed in the care of the cardiopulmonary patient are discussed.

**Prerequisites:** RCP100, RCP100-L & MATH110

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## RCP370

### Adult Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology I

This course begins with a study of the fundamental techniques and protocols required to conduct a thorough patient assessment. Included in this course is a discussion on the various non-invasive and invasive tests that are involved in determining the presence of various cardiopulmonary diseases and disorders. Etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnosis, management and prognosis of acute and chronic pulmonary diseases will be the major emphasis of this course.

**Prerequisite:** RCP200

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## RCP330

### Respiratory Procedures II

This course is a continuation of Respiratory Procedures I and introduces students to advanced respiratory care treatments and support modalities, set-up, use, and troubleshooting required equipment, and the RT's role in performing and assisting with special procedures. Focus is placed on achieving understanding of the application of specific modalities to clinical scenarios, assessing effectiveness of treatment, modification of treatment based on clinical indication, and patient response and operating principles of equipment used.

**Prerequisite:** RCP250    **Corequisite:** RCP330-L

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## RCP330-L

### Respiratory Procedures II Lab

This laboratory course introduces students to set-up, use, and troubleshooting of required equipment, and the RT's role in performing and assisting with special procedures.

**Prerequisites:** RCP250 & RCP250-L

**Corequisite:** RCP330-L

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## RCP550

### Introduction to Clinical Practicum

This course prepares students to begin training in the clinical environment. Topics in this course will include professional ethics and communication skills for students; orientation to charting techniques; HIPAA training; and the Joint Commission topics related to patient safety initiatives and professionalism in the healthcare environment. Focus is also placed on issues surrounding universal precautions, blood-borne pathogen safety, infection control, dealing with death and dying, and diverse populations. During this course all students will complete pre-clinical health exams, immunizations, TB and drug

screenings. Additionally, each student will receive certification in American Heart Association healthcare provider CPR and Fire Safety Training.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105, ENGL110, MATH110, PSYC110, RCP100, RCP100-L, RCP220, RCP250, RCP250-L, RCP300, RCP330, RCP 330-L, RCP370, RCP470, RCP450, RCP450-L

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## RCP450

### Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

This course is a study of pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques and interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory, at the bedside, special procedures imaging departments, pathology, and clinical laboratory departments. An emphasis will be placed on how information from various diagnostic tests and studies (such as pulmonary function testing and clinical lab findings) are used to determine the presence, extent, and progression of lung disease and abnormality and also how these findings are utilized to develop an ongoing plan of care for the patient.

**Prerequisite:** RCP370

**Corequisite:** RCP450-L

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## RCP450-L

### Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Lab

This laboratory course introduces students to pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques and interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory and at the bedside.

**Prerequisite:** RCP370

**Corequisite:** RCP450

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## RCP470

### Adult Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology II

This course begins with a study of the fundamental techniques and protocols required to conduct a thorough patient assessment. Included in this course is a discussion on the various non-invasive and invasive tests that are involved in determining the presence of various cardio-pulmonary diseases and disorders. Etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnosis, management and prognosis of acute and chronic pulmonary diseases will be the major emphasis of this course.

**Prerequisites:** RCP200 & RCP370

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## RCP500

### Mechanical Ventilation I

This course is a study of the basic principles of mechanical ventilation, the effects of positive pressure ventilation, and classification of mechanical ventilators. Conventional modes of ventilation are compared and contrasted with attention to waveform analysis within these modes. A case study approach is utilized to discuss concepts of initiation of mechanical ventilation, appropriate ventilator management, weaning criteria, determination of appropriateness to wean, and clinical application of pharmacotherapy for the mechanically ventilated patient. Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation is also addressed.

**Prerequisites:** RCP370, RCP470 & MATH110

**Corequisite:** RCP500-L

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## RCP500-L

### Mechanical Ventilation I Lab

This laboratory course introduces students to the basic principles of mechanical ventilation (both invasive and non-invasive), selection, assembly and testing of the equipment. Additionally, students will practice determining initial ventilator settings, clinical application of pharmacotherapy, assessing appropriateness to wean, and discontinuation of mechanical ventilation.

**Prerequisite:** RCP370 & RCP470

**Corequisite:** RCP500

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## RCP600

### Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology

This course is a study of fetal development of the cardiopulmonary system, respiratory care of neonatal and pediatric patients, as well as causes and treatment of respiratory illnesses. Students will gain an understanding of patient evaluation, monitoring, and therapeutic modalities seen with common neonatal and pediatric disorders, including respiratory distress syndrome, intracranial hemorrhage, pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, common respiratory infections in the infant and pediatric population, and pediatric trauma.

**Prerequisite:** RCP200

**Corequisite:** RCP600-L

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## RCP600-L

### Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology Lab

This course is a study of fetal development of the cardiopulmonary system, respiratory care of neonatal and pediatric patients, as well as causes and treatment of respiratory illnesses. Students will gain an understanding of patient evaluation, monitoring and therapeutic modalities seen with common neonatal and pediatric disorders, including respiratory distress syndrome, intracranial hemorrhage, pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, common respiratory infections in the infant and pediatric population and pediatric trauma.

**Prerequisite:** RCP200

**Corequisite:** RCP600

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next page...



## Course Descriptions (cont.)

### RCP700

#### Advanced Concepts

This course is a study of pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques & interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory, at the bedside, special procedures imaging departments, pathology and clinical laboratory departments. An emphasis will be placed on how information from various diagnostic tests and studies (such as pulmonary function testing and clinical lab findings) are used to determine the presence, extent, and progression of lung disease and abnormality and also how these findings are utilized to develop an on-going plan of care for the patient.

**Prerequisites:** RCP270, RCP470, RCP500, RCP500-L

### RTCP210

#### Clinical Practicum I

This course is an introduction to the clinical environment and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain hands-on experience in infection control policy and procedures, selection and assembly of basic respiratory care equipment for the purposes of administering oxygen therapy, humidity and aerosol therapy, and bronchoactive aerosol therapy. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills of patient assessment, observation, modification of therapy, development of patient care plans, and documentation to the patient care record. Students will gain competency in the areas of non-invasive pulmonary hygiene, lung expansion therapy, and airway clearance techniques. The student will also develop skills in patient/family education on a variety of therapies and topics in respiratory care. During this practicum, students will complete chart reviews in order to demonstrate familiarity with locating and collecting patient data from the medical record. Students will also present a case study in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory with clinical skills.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105, CAREER100, ENGL110, MATH110, PSYC110, RCP100, RCP100-L, RCP200, RCP250, RCP250-L, RCP300, RCP370, RCP330, RCP330-L, RCP470, RCP550, RCP450, RCP450-L, RCP500, RCP500-L

### RTCP212

#### Clinical Practicum II

This course is a continuation of the clinical experience from RTCP210 and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain competency in the areas of diagnostic testing carried out in the Pulmonary Function Laboratory, CT, MRI and Radiology departments. The student will also develop skills necessary to safely transport patients between departments within the hospital environment. Students will practice skills necessary to safely obtain arterial blood gases, transport and analyze samples, and interpret and report results. Students will practice skills necessary to safely secure the patient airway and obtain arterial blood gases from indwelling arterial catheters. Students will present a case study by the end of this practicum in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory with clinical skills.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105, CAREER100, ENGL110, MATH110, PSYC110, RCP100, RCP100-L, RCP200, RCP250, RCP250-L, RCP300, RCP370, RCP330, RCP330-L, RCP550, RCP470, RCP450, RCP450-L, RCP500, RCP500-L, RCP600, RCP600-L, RTCP210

### RTCP214

#### Clinical Practicum III

This course is a continuation of the clinical experience from RTCP 212 and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in terms of policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain competency in the management of critically ill patients including adult, neonatal, and pediatric patients. Students will practice skills necessary to safely place and secure the patient airway, to obtain arterial blood gases via arterial puncture and from indwelling arterial catheters, to provide patient/family education on a variety of therapies and topics in respiratory care, and to communicate effectively within the members of the patient care team. Students will gain competency in the initiation, management, and weaning of the critically ill patient from a wide range of ventilator support. Students will present a clinical research paper by the end of this

practicum in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory, clinical experience, and research skills in a written format.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105, CAREER100, ENGL110, MATH110, PSYC110, RCP100, RCP100-L, RCP200, RCP250, RCP250-L, RCP300, RCP370, RCP330, RCP330-L, RCP550, RCP470, RCP450, RCP450-L, RCP500, RCP500-L, RCP600, RCP600-L, RCP700, RTCP210, RTCP212

### RCP800

#### Board Review

This course is a study of pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques & interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory, at the bedside, special procedures imaging departments, pathology and clinical laboratory departments. An emphasis will be placed on how information from various diagnostic tests and studies (such as pulmonary function testing and clinical lab findings) are used to determine the presence, extent, and progression of lung disease and abnormality and also how these findings are utilized to develop an on-going plan of care for the patient.

**Prerequisites:** ANAT105, MATH110, RCP100, RCP100-L, ENGL110, RCP200, RCP250, RCP250-L, RCP300, RCP370, RCP330, RCP330-L, PSYC110, RCP470, RCP450, RCP450-L, CAREER100, RCP550, RCP500, RCP500-L, RCP600, RCP600-L, RTCP210, RCP700, RTCP212



I completed four years of college and graduated as a History major, but I couldn't seem to find a job that was secure. I knew the medical profession was [secure], so I researched a few places and picked American Career College. It was the best fit.\*

Juan S.  
Respiratory Therapy Graduate



\*The opinion is the individual's sole opinion and not necessarily representative of that of the school, any instructor, or any student.

# Respiratory Therapy

## Accreditation

ACC is institutionally accredited by the **Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)**.

ABHES: 7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314N, Falls Church, VA 22043 / Phone (703) 917-9503 / Fax (703) 917-4109 / [www.abhes.org](http://www.abhes.org).

The Respiratory Therapy (Associate of Occupational Science) programs in Orange County and Ontario are programmatically accredited by the **Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)**. CoARC: 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244 / Phone: (817) 283-2835 / Fax: (817) 510-1063 / [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com).

Campus Locations	Ontario	Orange County
<b>ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS (ABHES)</b>		
<b>Retention Rates</b>		
Based on the calculation required by ACC's accrediting body, ABHES. ABHES defines retention rate as the number of graduates plus students who enrolled as of June 30, 2019 divided by the number of students who were in school from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 and were still enrolled as of July 1, 2018 plus new starts during the reporting period and students who reentered between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.	83%	87%
<b>Placement Rates</b>		
Based on the calculation required by ACC's accrediting body, ABHES. ABHES defines placement rates as the number of graduates who complete the program during the reporting period (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) who are graduates who were available for employment and found a job in their field of training.	100%	85%
<b>CALIFORNIA BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (BPPE)</b>		
<b>On-time Completion Rates</b>		
The number of students who completed the program within 100% of the published program length within 2018 divided by the number of students who began the program who were scheduled to complete the program within 100% of the published program length within 2018 and excludes all students who canceled during the cancellation period, minus the number of students who have died, been incarcerated, or been called to active military duty.	48%	69%
<b>Placement Rates</b>		
The number of 2018 graduates gainfully employed in the field divided by the number of graduates available for employment. Graduates employed in the field means graduates who beginning within six months after a student completes the applicable educational program are gainfully employed, whose employment has been reported, and for whom the institution has documented verification of 35 days employment. For occupations for which the state requires passing an examination, the six months' period begins after the announcement of the examination results for the first examination available after a student completes an applicable educational program.	19%	21%
<b>Program Costs</b>		
Includes tuition and fees for the entire program, and assumes normal completion. Tuition and Fees are subject to change.	\$49,775	\$49,775
<b>Licensure Passage Rate</b>		
The number of graduates who passed the exam divided by the number of graduates who took the reported licensing exam.	77.41%	87.87%
<b>O*Net Occupation Titles</b>	<b>SOC Code</b>	<b>Links to Occupational Profiles on O*Net</b>
Respiratory Therapists: Respiratory Therapist (RT), Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP), Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT), Clinical Coordinator of Respiratory Therapy, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services, Respiratory Therapy Director, Staff Respiratory Therapist	29-1126.00	<a href="http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1126.00">http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1126.00</a>
Respiratory Therapy Technicians: Respiratory Therapy Technician, Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRTT), Respiratory Technician, Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist	29-2054.00	<a href="http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2054.00">http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2054.00</a>
To obtain a list of the objective sources of information used to substantiate the salary disclosures; please refer to the California Employment Development Department website at: <a href="http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides/Search.asp">http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides/Search.asp</a> . ACC cannot guarantee employment. Programs lengths vary by schedule and session.		

## Start Your Change Today

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